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AUTHOR Blumhardt, Lynette K.
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ABSTRACT

This state plan is North Dakota's response to Title VII, Subtitle B of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (the McKinney Act), which charges states with collecting information on the number and needs of homeless children and youth, identifying problems impeding their education, and developing a plan to overcome such problems. Section 1 provides a program narrative of the homeless education initiative. Section 2 offers uniform definitions of standard terms. Section 3 provides a brief summary of McKinney Act requirements. Section 4 describes the data collection process in North Dakota. Section 5 discusses North Dakota school law and the homeless child, including implications for residency, placement, tuition-free agreements, and immunization. Section 6 details the state's 1989-90 goals for the education of homeless children and youth. Section 7 describes provisions to publish and circulate the plan and to solicit comment and input through public hearings. Section 8 lists assurances of compliance with requirements for Federal funding. The following attachments are provided: (1) a reprint of Subtitle B of the McKinney Act; (2) the state's preliminary status report; (3) the final survey form sent to school officials; (4) the final survey form sent to service providers; and (5) the final status report. (AF)

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NORTH DAKOTA ANNUAL STATE PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM YEAR 1989-90

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I. PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Homelessness is a problem of national importance. Its effects are seen in every state, and North Dakota is no exception. In urban and rural areas alike, people are found living with relatives and friends, in temporary shelters, in substandard or inadequate housing, and even in cars or under bridges.

Research indicates that homelessness has its most devastating effect upon young people. A panel of the National Academy of Sciences found that children are the fastest growing group among America's homeless. These children are far more likely than others of their age to suffer from a variety of illnesses and physical disorders. Emotional and developmental difficulties are also prevalent among this group.

These difficulties impact heavily upon a child's school attendance and performance. Other related factors such as hunger, stress, and fatigue also take their toll. Education-related concerns can also involve transportation difficulties and a lack of proper school clothing and supplies. In some areas of the country, residency requirements and school record transferal procedures can delay a child's entrance into school.

It was in recognition of the difficulties faced by homeless children and youth in seeking an education that Congress enacted the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in 1987 (PL100-77). The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, in August of 1988, established an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth with a grant obtained under the McKinney Act (specifically Title VII, Subtitle B).

Under Title VII, Subtitle B of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, the state is charged with collecting information regarding the numbers and needs of homeless children and youth, identifying problems that prevent them from receiving an education, and developing a plan to overcome such problems.

It is under the auspices of the Stewart B. McKinney Act that this plan is written and submitted.

II. UNIFORM DEFINITIONS OF STANDARD TERMS

1. The terms "child" and "youth" include those persons who, were they children of residents of the State, would be entitled to a free public education.

2. A "homeless" individual is one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (Section 103 (a)(1)(2) of the Act).

   The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by an Act of Congress or a State law (Section 103(c)).

3. A "free, appropriate public education" means the educational programs and services that are provided the children of a resident of a State, and that are consistent with State school attendance laws (Section 721(1)). It includes educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as compensatory education programs for the disadvantaged, and educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency; programs in vocational education, programs for the gifted and talented; and school meals programs (Section 722(e)(5)).

III. REQUIREMENTS OF THE STEWART B. MCKINNEY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

The Education of Homeless Children and Youth is dealt with under Title VII, Subtitle B of the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

A brief summary of the Act's requirements follows.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

In regard to the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, it is the policy of Congress that:

(1) each State educational agency shall assure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth have access to a free, appropriate public education which would be provided to the children of a resident of a State and is consistent with the State school attendance laws; and

(2) in any State that has a residency requirement as a component of its compulsory school attendance laws, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws to assure that the children of homeless individuals and homeless youth are afforded a free and appropriate education.

AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

Grants received under this shall be used:

(1) to carry out the policies set forth by Congress;

(2) to establish or designate an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth; and

(3) to prepare and carry out the State plan.

FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

The Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth is charged with:

(1) gathering data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the State, and such data gathering shall include the nature and extent of problems of access to, and placement of homeless children and homeless youth in elementary and secondary schools, and the difficulties in identifying the special needs of such children;

(2) developing and carrying out the State plan; and

(3) preparing and submitting to the Secretary an interim report not later than December 31, 1987, and a final report not later than December 31, 1988, on the data gathered pursuant to paragraph (1).

STATE PLAN

(1) Each state shall adopt a plan to provide for the education of each homeless child or homeless youth within the State which will continue provisions designed to:

(A) authorize the State educational agency, the local educational agency, the parent or guardian of the homeless child, the homeless youth, or the applicable social worker to make the determinations required under this section; and

(B) provide procedures for the resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youth.

(2) Each plan adopted shall assure, to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by State law, that local educational agencies within the State will comply with the requirements put forth.

(3) The local educational agency of each homeless child or youth shall either--

(A) continue the child's or youth's education in the school district of origin for the remainder of the school year; or

(B) enroll the child or youth in the school district where the child or youth is actually living;

(whichever is in the child's best interest or the youth's best interest).

(4) The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth is living with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parents.

(5) Each homeless child shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected according to the provisions of paragraph (3), including educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as compensatory educational programs for the disadvantaged, and educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency; programs in vocational education; programs for the gifted and talented; and school meals programs.

(6) The school records of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained--

(A) so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school district; and

(B) in a manner consistent with section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

Discussion of North Dakota's laws and policies regarding residency, resolution of disputes, "best interest" of child, provision of services, and school records is found in Part V of this plan.

A complete copy of Title VII, Subtitle B is found in Appendix A.

IV. DATA COLLECTION

In keeping with Subtitle B, Section 722, Subsection (d), the North Dakota Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth has gathered data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the State. This data gathering included data regarding the nature and extent of problems of access to, and placement of homeless children and youth in school, as well as difficulties inherent in identifying the special needs of these children and youth.

Preliminary Survey and Status Report

A preliminary telephone survey was conducted in October, 1988, by the Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth, in part, to fulfill the requirements of a preliminary report to the United States Department of Education in Washington, DC. The survey involved: North Dakota's Human Service Centers; Salvation Army Offices; Community Action Programs; Abused Adult Crisis Centers; Homeless Shelters; Family Services Offices; and Youthworks. Questions were drawn directly from the Status Report form. (Please see Appendix A.)

(It should be emphasized that the preliminary survey requested that statistics be drawn based on a one month period; the final survey utilized statistics drawn from a one week period.)

Each agency was requested to provide data from the month of September, 1988. A total of 268 homeless school-age children were reported. Municipalities reporting the greatest numbers of homeless children and youth included Grand Forks (74), Fargo (47), Jamestown (30), and Bismarck-Mandan (30).

Of the 268, 173 homeless children and youth were reported to be in school; 23 were not in school. The attendance situation of 72 homeless children and youth was unknown.

Overall, shelters and service providers reported a cooperative attitude on the part of the school. Transiency, family instability, and economic concerns seemed to be at the root of most of the cases of nonattendance. Less frequent deterrents to attendance included parents' fear of child stealing, dislike of a particular school, time needed to resettle into a new school, and older children needing to babysit younger siblings.

The special educational needs of homeless children and youth included counseling services, and relatedly, the building of awareness and sensitivity on the part of school staff. Physical needs were emphasized as well, i.e. school breakfasts/lunches, school supplies and clothing, medical care, and of course, stable shelter. It was also recommended that needs assessments be carried out as quickly as possible and that remedial assistance, tutoring, and as warranted, special education services be rapidly delivered.

The ongoing difficulties in attempting to collect data regarding homeless children and youth include:

1. Difficulty in identifying the "hidden" population of homeless students living with relatives or friends.

2. The problem of balancing avoidance of duplicate counts with completeness of information.

3. Variations in recordkeeping practices of various agencies, making an accurate breakdown of statistics, according to school level, housing types, etc., difficult.

4. The next step after needs are identified--i.e. meeting the challenge to improve the educational circumstances of homeless children and youth.

The complete preliminary status report, summarizing the findings of the survey just discussed, is included as Appendix B.

Final Survey and Status Report

A mail survey, conducted in order to gather data for the final status report to the U.S. Department of Education, was carried out by the Coordinator in December, 1988. (Please see Appendices C and D for copies of final survey forms to schools and service providers.

(It should be emphasized that while the preliminary suvery requested that statistics be drawn based on a one-month period, the final survey utilized statistics drawn from a one-week period.)

This particular survey requested that statistics be drawn from the week of December 5-9, 1988. It was broader in scope than was the preliminary survey in that both school principals and service agencies were surveyed. Types of service agencies surveyed included: Community Action Programs, Human Service Centers, County Social Services, Domestic Violence Crisis Centers, Family Service Agencies, Red Cross Agencies, Salvation Army Offices, Special Youth Agencies, and Homeless Shelters. Seven hundred forty surveys were sent to school principals; approximately 300 of these were returned (40%). One hundred fifty-three surveys were mailed to service agencies, with responses from approximately 70 agencies (46%). There was some phone follow-up done to obtain information after the survey return deadline had passed.

This survey yielded a total of 203 homeless children and youth. The schools reported 127 of these; service agencies indicated 76. Cities reporting the greatest numbers of homeless children and youth included Fargo (69), Bismarck-Mandan (33), Grand Forks (23), Fort Yates (20), and Devils Lake (18).

Of the total of 203 homeless children and youth, 173 were reportedly in school; 12 were not in school, and the attendance status of 18 was unknown.

Findings of this survey regarding reasons for nonattendance were similar to those of the preliminary survey. Transiency, family stress, hunger, and exhaustion were noted as significant obstacles to attendance. Chemical abuse within the family and difficulty in functioning within the traditional school structure were also seen as quite common deterrents to school attendance and achievement. Other concerns related to clothing/hygiene, a lack of transportation, guardianship issues, and having to care for a sibling. Residency requirements, tuition payment problems, a lack of school records, and special curriculum needs were noted a few times. Economic difficulties underlie most, if not all, of the concerns mentioned.

The special education needs of homeless children and youth revolve around physical, emotional and academic needs. Specifically, recommendations were made to provide for counseling services, tutorial assistance, and school breakfasts and lunches. Health care, compensatory and special education, and pregnancy services were noted several times as unique education-related needs of homeless children and youth. The need for easier record transfer was indicated twice among respondents.

Other comments provided by respondents spoke to the need to look beyond the school environment to the child's home life. Some noted the need for supportive residential facilities for students who are victims of particularly unstable or abusive homes. The difficulty in identifying children and youth as homeless was also discussed.

Again, economic difficulties are at the root of these needs.

The difficulties inherent in attempting to collect data regarding homeless children and youth were discussed previously in terms of the preliminary report. A specific description of these difficulties, as well as a discussion of the duplication concern and other final survey details, can be found in Appendix C.

The Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth will conduct further data gathering procedures, as warranted by the functions of the program and by requests by the United States Department of Education. The Coordinator will consult with the Advisory Committee for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in general, and the Program Subcommittee specifically in order to obtain guidance in the data gathering process.

V. NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL LAW AND THE HOMELESS CHILD

The Coordinator has consulted, and will continue to consult with, the Attorney General's Office in order to investigate, and if warranted, modify the State's laws and policies in regard to homeless children and youth and their educational pursuits.

The McKinney Act

The McKinney Act requires that each State prepare and adopt a State plan. Subtitle B, Subsection (e) specifies the requirements of this plan. Please see Part III and Appendix A for component details.

North Dakota Law

*Residency

North Dakota does not have a "residency requirement" for school attendance in terms of requiring residence in a school district for any length of time. North Dakota does, however, limit the right to attend the schools of a public school district free of charge to those who are "residents" of the school district.

Article VIII, section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution provides in part that "the legislative assembly shall make provision for the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools which shall be open to all children of the state of North Dakota."

North Dakota Century Code section 15-29-08(1) provides that the school board of a public school district has the power and duty to "establish for all children of legal school age residing within the district, a system of free public schools which shall furnish school privileges equally and equitably."

North Dakota Century Code section 15-47-01 states that "the public schools of the state shall be equally free, open, and accessible at all times to all children between the ages of six and twenty-one."

North Dakota Century Code section 15-34.1-01 provides that "every parent, guardian, or other person who resides within any school district, or who resides upon any government base or installation without any school district, and has control over any educable child of an age of seven years to sixteen years . . . shall send or take such child to a public school each year during the entire time such school is in session."

There is no requirement in North Dakota that a child or family live in a school district for any length of time before the child or family can be considered "residents" of the district entitled to attend the schools of the district.

The North Dakota statutes do not contain any provisions indicating what constitutes "residence" for school attendance purposes. There is no indication, for example, whether it means the

legal residence of the child, the legal residence of the child's parent or guardian, or the physical residence of the child. The North Dakota Supreme Court, however, has addressed this very question on two occasions, in Anderson v. Breithbarth and in In Interest of G.H.

In summary, the North Dakota Supreme Court cases stand for three propositions with respect to residence for school purposes:

1) that the residence of a child may differ from the residence of the child's parents;

2) that a child "resides" in a district if that is where the child is actually living and making its home; and

3) that the place where the child is actually living does not constitute the "residence" of the child when the child has come into that school district merely for the purpose of obtaining school privileges in that district without the payment of tuition.

Therefore, there are no statutory changes that are necessary in order to effectuate the policy established in the McKinney Act of providing access to homeless children and youth on the same basis as would be provided to children of a resident of the State.

*Educational Placement of Students and Resolution of Placement Disputes

The McKinney Act also provides that each plan adopted shall assure to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by State law that local educational agencies continue the child's education in the district of origin for the remainder of the school year or enroll the child where the child is actually living, whichever is in the child's best interest. (42 U.S.C.A. 11432(2) and (3))

The Act does not define the phrase "local educational agency." Because the federal statute providing Financial Assistance To Educational Agencies defines the phrase as including what we in North Dakota call our local "school districts," it is assumed that the use of the phrase in the McKinney Act means the same.

It should be noted that by statute public school districts are given the authority to determine the placement of students in the schools within its district. North Dakota Century Code 15-29-08(14) states that it is one of the powers and duties of the school board of a public school district "to admit to the schools of the district pupils from other districts as provided by law, and to make rules and regulations for such admission, for the assignment and distribution of pupils to and among the schools, and for their transfer from one school to another."

Thus, by statute the school district has the exclusive authority to determine placement of students within its district. Furthermore,

the statutes do not establish any standards to which the school district must adhere in making placement decisions. Therefore, under present law there is no statutory requirement that the school district make the placement decision based upon the best interests of the child. That is not to say that the school districts are not doing so. At this time it is unknown how the school districts in North Dakota determine which school within a district a child will attend. This is an area which the policy subcommittee shall investigate in order to determine whether district policies and practices create problems for homeless children and youth.

To summarize, under current North Dakota law, it is not practicable to require the school district to adhere to the "best interest of the child" standard. Furthermore, under presently existing state law the placement decision rests solely with the school district. Under current law, there does not appear to be a procedure for resolution of placement disputes.

*Tuition-Free Agreements

Under current state law there is a procedure whereby a child may gain admittance to a school district other than the one in which it resides without payment of tuition.

A student may attend school in another district when the school districts involved enter into an agreement governing such attendance. This is what is generally referred to as a tuition-free agreement. (The student may also attend if the parent or guardian pays the nonresident tuition.) A student may also attend an out-of-the-district-of-residence school if the district of residence pays the tuition. If the school district does not agree to pay the tuition, that decision may be appealed to a three-member county committee. When high school students are involved, the decision of the county committee may be appealed to the State Board of Public School Education.

With respect to high school students, the committee (and the State Board) is to approve the tuition application if it finds "that the attendance of such pupil is necessitated by shorter distance, previous attendance in another high school, inadequacy of curriculum considering the educational needs of the particular pupil, or in cases of extreme family of pupil hardship." With respect to elementary pupils, the committee is to approve the tuition application if it finds "that the attendance of such pupil is necessitated by shorter distances or in cases of extreme family or pupil hardship."

*Pupil Immunization

The North Dakota Century Code 23-07-17.1 deals with inoculations required before children can be admitted to school. Subsections 1, 2, and 3 state:

1. No child shall be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, or day care center, child care

facility, head start program, or nursery school operating in North Dakota unless such child's parent or guardian presents to the institution authorities a certification from a licensed physician or authorized representative of the state department of health and consolidated laboratories that such child has received immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, rubella (German measles), mumps and poliomyelitis.

2. A child may enter an institution upon submitting written proof from a licensed physician or authorized representative of the state department of health and consolidated laboratories stating that he has started receiving the required immunization or has a written consent by the child's parent or guardian for a local health service or department to administer the needed immunization without charge or has complied with the requirements for certificate of exemption as provided for in subsection 3.

3. Any minor child, through his parent or guardian, may submit to the institution authorities either a certificate from a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would endanger the life or health of the child or a certificate signed by his parent or guardian whose beliefs are opposed to such immunization. The minor child shall then be exempt from the provisions of this section.

It is recognized that homeless families may lose immunization records during periods of transition. It is also recognized that the costs of such immunizations may be difficult for these families to bear.

The North Dakota Health Department will provide all required immunizations free of charge to those who are unable to pay. All County Health Offices abide by this policy.

This office sees the free immunization program as a most necessary and helpful one for all homeless in North Dakota.

Summary and Recommendations

To summarize,

1) North Dakota does not have a residency requirement in terms of any specific time that a child or its parents must live in a district before being entitled to attend the public schools of the district;

2) In North Dakota, residence for school attendance purposes is determined by where the child is actually living as long as the child is not living at that location solely to evade the tuition payment statutes;

3) Placement of a child within a school district is at the discretion of the school district;

4) Tuition-free agreements may be negotiated; and

5) The North Dakota Health Department will provide free required immunizations to children of families in need of such assistance, thus facilitating rapid school enrollment of these children.

The Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youth will work with the Advisory Committee for Homeless Children and Youth, the Policy Subcommittee, the Attorney General's Office, and other concerned parties in order to:

1) Determine whether district placement policies and practices create problems for homeless children and youth;

2) Determine the most feasible means of dealing with district placement policy disputes as warranted;

3) Examine the need for additional policies regarding the provision of comparable services to homeless students; and

4) Study the current status of school academic record transfer availability.

VI. 1989-90 PROGRAM GOALS FOR THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The following goals are based upon stipulations of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, information obtained through the survey of schools and service providers, and input received from the Advisory Committee for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, as well as other cooperating agencies and organizations with a concern for the issue of homelessness.

Goal 1: Investigate means of identifying and tracking homeless children and youth.

Status: It is recognized that one of the major obstacles to serving homeless children and youth lies in the inability to recognize the individual circumstances of each child, and, relatedly, in identifying them as homeless. Through publicity of the issue, as well as educational efforts directed at school personnel, service providers, the general public, and homeless individuals, the presence and implications of homelessness in North Dakota can be made more apparent. Consequently, sensitivity to this issue can be raised and service delivery to homeless children, youth, and adults can be enhanced.

This office has taken several steps to raise awareness of this issue. (See Goal #2) The challenge of actually tracking homeless children and youth, however, is a difficult one. The Coordinator shall continue to work with the Advisory Committee in general, and the Program Subcommittee in particular, to investigate tracking efforts. A computerized system appears necessary to achieve this. At this point, such a system is not feasible. Interactions with other agencies will be investigated. Other states' successful tracking efforts will also be studied and evaluated for their usefulness in North Dakota.

Goal 2: Provide input and support to, and cooperate with, other agencies and departments providing critical education-related services to homeless children and youth in North Dakota.

Status: The preliminary and final status reports indicated numerous high-priority needs among homeless children and youth. Hunger, exhaustion and stress are concerns which surface again and again and which impact directly on school attendance and performance. Needs relating to medical care, clothing/hygiene, family instability, remedial assistance, tutoring, and counseling are also prevalent. These needs and concerns are extremely complex and interrelated. (See Part IV for a more complete discussion of survey findings.)

While the ability to directly address many of these needs falls outside the functional scope of this office, the Coordinator shall cooperate with and offer input and support to those public and private agencies and organizations seeking to address the myriad difficulties surrounding homeless children and youth.

Goal 3: To implement means of bringing the issue of homelessness in general, and homeless educational concerns in particular, to the attention of North Dakotans. This goal also involves methods of reaching homeless families.

Status: The Office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth has already taken steps to increase the public's awareness of homelessness and its implications. Activities undertaken from August 1988-January 1989 include:

*Article regarding McKinney Act printed in October, 1988 Perspective;

*Advisory Committee established for the Education of Homeless Children, Youth and Adults, comprised of statewide representation and involving numerous agencies and organizations. Four subcommittees were established as well. Meetings are held quarterly.

*Survey of homeless children and youth conducted in October, 1988;

*Later, (December, 1988), a more comprehensive survey of homeless children and youth was conducted. Results were circulated via news releases to all newspapers, and to radio and television stations in the state;

*Presentations given at North Dakota Homeless Coalition meetings, Ruth Meiers' Hospitality House Board meetings and Bismarck Homeless Coalition meeting;

*Information regarding the state's three Adult Education for the Homeless programs (location, phone number, contact person) was provided to the Literacy Hotline answering center.

*Numerous agency contacts have been made.

Future efforts planned include:

*Presentation to North Dakota Reading Association Conference, April, 1989;

*Brochure and/or poster to be designed regarding educational rights of homeless, services, opportunities, survey results, etc. Electric cooperatives may provide assistance. Input will be sought from school personnel, coalition members, service providers and Advisory Committee members;

*Public Service Announcements may be issued. This will primarily deal with homeless adult opportunities, but a children/youth aspect may be included;

*School staff training will be conducted statewide in April, 1989, in conjunction with Chapter 1 training;

*Presentations planned for the Poverty Conference and the North Dakota Adult Education Conference;

*A "Homeless Week" of activities will be discussed. Implementation will require a cooperative effort on the part of numerous organizations with an interest in homelessness.

Goal 4: Review North Dakota's need for additional policies or statutes regarding intradistrict placement, dispute resolution, provision of comparable services, and school record transfer availability as these relate to homeless children and youth.

Status: Please see Section V.

Goal 5: Provide for ongoing interagency networking and interaction.

Status: The Office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth has made significant progress in this endeavor by involving the following agencies and organizations in the Advisory Committee:

ND Office of Adult Education
ND Attorney General's Office
ND Office of Intergovernmental Assistance
ND Department of Public Instruction (including Chapter I and Special Education)
ND Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health
Governor's Employment Training Forum
School Counseling Services
North Dakota Opportunities
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House
Grand Forks Task Force on Homelessness
Local Adult Learning Centers
School Administration Staff
New Town Coalition Against Domestic Violence
ND Coalition for the Homeless
Children's Services Coordinating Committee
Community Action Programs
Youthworks
North Dakota Job Service
Regional Human Service Centers

In addition to the cooperation of these groups within the setting of the Advisory Committee, significant networking is taking place outside of the Committee. This Office will continue to pursue such interactive relationships in the belief that a cooperative effort is critical to addressing the educational needs of homeless children and youth.

VII. PUBLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Prior to the implementation of the State Plan, the following provisions will be made to publish the proposed State Plan and provide opportunity for public comments:

*Publication and Circulation. The State Advisory Committee for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth will provide comments and/or recommendations relative to the State Plan during February, 1989. This February meeting will be publicized as an "Open Meeting" at which public comment will be welcomed. Following Advisory Committee input, copies of the State Plan will be circulated to each county school superintendent. Each county newspaper shall be notified of the availability of the plan for public review. Public comments will be accepted until March 27, 1989.

All comments and recommendations will be compiled and reviewed by the Office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth, in cooperation with the State Plan Subcommittee,and as warranted, with the Advisory Committee in general. Amendments will be made to the State Plan as needed. The proposed State Plan will be presented to the U.S. Department of Education for approval no later than April 25, 1989.

VIII. ASSURANCES

The Applicant hereby assures and certifies that it will comply with the regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements, as they relate to the application, acceptance and use of Federal funds for this federally-assisted project. Also the Applicant assures and certifies:

1. It possesses legal authority to apply for the grant; that a resolution, motion or similar action has been duly adopted or passed as an official act of the applicant's governing body, authorizing the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing the person identified as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

2. It will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and in accordance with Title VI of that Act, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant receives Federal financial assistance and will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.

3. It will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) prohibiting employment discrimination where (1) the primary purpose of a grant is to provide employment or (2) discriminatory employment practices will result in unequal treatment of persons who are or should be benefiting from the grant-aided activity.

4. It will comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

5. It will comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

6. It will comply with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

7. It will comply with requirements of the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provides for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs.

8. It will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act which limit the political activity of employees.

9. It will comply with the minimum wage and maximum hours provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, as they apply to hospital and educational institution employees of State and local governments.

10. It will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that is or gives the appearance of being motivated by a desire for private gain for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have family, business, or other ties.

11. It will give the sponsoring agency or the Comptroller General through any authorized representative the access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the grant.

12. It will comply with all requirements imposed by the Federal sponsoring agency concerning special requirements of law, program requirements, and other administrative requirements.

13. It will insure that the facilities under its ownership, lease or supervision which shall be utilized in the accomplishment of the project are not listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of Violating Facilities and that it will notify the Federal grantor agency of the receipt of any communication from the Director of the EPA Office of Federal Activities indicating that a facility to be used in the project is under consideration for listing by the EPA.

14. It will comply with the flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, P.L. 93-234, 87 Stat. 975, approved December 31, 1976. Section 102(a) requires, on or after March 2, 1975, the purchase of flood insurance in communities where such insurance is available as a condition for the receipt of any Federal financial assistance for construction or acquisition purposes for use in any area that has been identified by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development as an area having special flood hazards. The phrase "Federal financial assistance" includes any form of loan, grant, guaranty, insurance payment, rebate, subsidy, disaster assistance loan or grant, or any other form of direct or indirect Federal assistance.

15. It will assist the Federal grantor agency in its compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), Executive Order 11593, and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 469a-1 *et seq.*) by (a) consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer on the conduct of investigations, as necessary, to identify properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that are subject to adverse effects (see 36 CFR Part 800.8) by the activity, and notifying the Federal grantor agency of the existence of any such properties, and by (b) complying with all requirements established by the Federal grantor agency to avoid or mitigate adverse effects upon such properties.

GPO 910-091

ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES

An application submitted under subsection (a) shall set forth assurances, satisfactory to the Commissioner--

(1) that each program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;

(2) that the control of funds provided under each program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency, or in a nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization if the statute authorizing the program provides for grants to such entities, and that the public agency or nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization will administer such funds and property;

(3) that the State will adopt and use proper methods of administering each applicable program, including--

(A) monitoring of agencies, institutions, and organizations responsible for carrying out each program, and the enforcement of any obligations imposed on those agencies, institutions, and organizations under law,

(B) providing technical assistance, where necessary, to such agencies, institutions, and organizations,

(C) encouraging the adoption of promising or innovative educational techniques by such agencies, institutions, and organizations,

(D) the dissemination throughout the State of information on program requirements and successful practices, and

(E) the correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through monitoring or evaluation;

(4) that the State will evaluate the effectiveness of covered programs in meeting their statutory objectives, at such intervals (not less often than once every three years) and in accordance with such procedures as the Commissioner may prescribe by regulation, and that the State will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each program conducted by or for the Secretary of other Federal official;

(5) that the State will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the State under each program;

(6) that the State will make reports to the Commissioner (including reports on the results of evaluations required under paragraph (4)) as may reasonably be necessary to enable the Commissioner to perform his duties under each program, and that the State will maintain such records, in

accordance with the requirements of section 437 of this Act, and afford access to the records as the Commissioner may find necessary to carry out his duties;

(7) that the State will provide reasonable opportunities for the participation by local agencies, representatives of the class of individuals affected by each program and other interested institutions, organizations, and individuals in the planning for and operation of each program, including the following:

(A) the State will consult with relevant advisory committees, local agencies, interest groups, and experienced professionals in the development of program plans required by statute;

(B) the State will publish each proposed plan, in a manner that will ensure circulation throughout the State, at least sixty days prior to the date on which the plan is submitted to the commissioner or on which the plan becomes effective, whichever occurs earlier, with an opportunity for public comments on such plan to be accepted for at least thirty days;

(C) the State will hold public hearings on the proposed plans if required by the Commissioner by regulation; and

(D) the State will provide an opportunity for interested agencies, organizations, and individuals to suggest improvements in the administration of the program and to allege that there has been a failure by any entity to comply with applicable statutes and regulations; and

(8) that none of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees or any affiliate of such an organization.

Each general application submitted under this section shall remain in effect for the duration of any program it covers. The Commissioner shall not require the resubmission or amendment of that application unless required by changes in Federal or State law or by other significant changes in the circumstances affecting an assurance in that application.

(20 U.S.C. 1232d) Enacted Nov. 1, 1978, P.L. 95-561, sec. 1231(a#3), 92 Stat. 2343-2345 (former sec. 435 redesignated as sec. 415). See also general reference Oct. 17, 1979, P.L. 96-88, sec. 301, 93 Stat. 677; amended Oct. 19, 1984, P.L. 98-511, sec. 706(a), 98 Stat. 2406.

Subtitle B—Education for Homeless Children and Youth

SEC. 721. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the Congress that—

(1) each State educational agency shall assure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth have access to a free, appropriate public education which would be provided to the children of a resident of a State and is consistent with the State school attendance laws; and

(2) in any State that has a residency requirement as a component of its compulsory school attendance laws, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws to assure that the children of homeless individuals and homeless youth are afforded a free and appropriate public education.

SEC. 722. GRANTS FOR STATE ACTIVITIES FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Education is, in accordance with the provisions of this section, authorized to make grants to States to carry out the activities described in subsections (c), (d), and (e).

(b) ALLOCATION.—From the amounts appropriated for each fiscal year pursuant to subsection (g), the Secretary shall allot to each State an amount which bears the same ratio to the amount appropriated in each such year as the amount allocated under section 111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (as incorporated by reference in chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act of 1981) to the local educational agencies in the State in that year bears to the total amount allocated to such agencies in all States, except that no State shall receive less than $50,000 in any fiscal year.

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants under this section shall be used—

(1) to carry out the policies set forth in section 721 in the State;

(2) to establish or designate an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth in accordance with subsection (d); and

(3) to prepare and carry out the State plan described in subsection (e).

(d) FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth established in each State shall—

(1) gather data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the State, and such data gathering shall include the nature and extent of problems of access to, and placement of, homeless children and homeless youth in elementary and secondary schools, and the difficulties in identifying the special needs of such children;

(2) develop and carry out the State plan described in subsection (e); and

(3) prepare and submit to the Secretary an interim report not later than December 31, 1987, and a final report not later than December 31, 1988, on the data gathered pursuant to paragraph (1).

To the extent that reliable current data is available in the State, each coordinator described in this subsection may use such data to fulfill the requirements of paragraph (1).

(e) STATE PLAN.—

(1) Each State shall adopt a plan to provide for the education of each homeless child or homeless youth within the State which will contain provisions designed to—

(A) authorize the State educational agency, the local educational agency, the parent or guardian of the homeless child, the homeless youth, or the applicable social worker to make the determinations required under this section; and

(B) provide procedures for the resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youth.

(2) Each plan adopted under this subsection shall assure, to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by State law, that local educational agencies within the State will comply with the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (6).

(3) The local educational agency of each homeless child or youth shall either—

(A) continue the child's or youth's education in the school district of origin for the remainder of the school year; or

(B) enroll the child or youth in the school district where the child or youth is actually living;

whichever is in the child's best interest or the youth's best interest.

(4) The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth is living with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parents.

(5) Each homeless child shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected according to the provisions of paragraph (3), including educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria, such as compensatory educational programs for the disadvantaged, and educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency; programs in vocational education; programs for the gifted and talented; and school meals programs.

(6) The school records of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained—

(A) so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school district; and

(B) in a manner consistent with section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

(f) APPLICATION.—No State may receive a grant under this section unless the State educational agency submits an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) There are authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1987 and 1988 to carry out the provisions of this section.

(2) Sums appropriated in each fiscal year shall remain available for the succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 723. EXEMPLARY GRANTS AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

(1) The Secretary shall, from funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (f), make grants for exemplary programs that successfully address the needs of homeless students in elementary and secondary schools of the applicant.

(2) The Secretary shall, in accordance with subsection (e), conduct dissemination activities of exemplary programs designed to meet the educational needs of homeless elementary and secondary school students.

(b) APPLICANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to State and local educational agencies for the purpose described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a).

(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—No applicant may receive an exemplary grant under this section unless the applicant is located in a

State which has submitted a State plan in accordance with the provisions of section 722.

(d) APPLICATION.—Each applicant which desires to receive a demonstration grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each such application shall include—

(1) a description of the exemplary program for which assistance is sought;

(2) assurances that the applicant will transmit information with respect to the conduct of the program for which assistance is sought; and

(3) such additional assurances that the Secretary determines are necessary.

(e) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall, from funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (f), conduct, directly or indirectly by way of grant, contract, or other arrangement, dissemination activities designed to inform State and local educational agencies of exemplary programs which successfully address the special needs of homeless students.

(f) APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—There is authorized to be appropriated $2,500,000 for fiscal year 1988 to carry out the provisions of this section.

SEC. 724. NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to the Congress not later than June 30, 1988, a report on the number of homeless children and youth in all States.

(b) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) The Secretary shall monitor and review compliance with the provisions of this subtitle in accordance with the provisions of the General Education Provisions Act.

(2) The Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the Congress on the programs and activities authorized by this subtitle at the end of each fiscal year.

(3) The Secretary shall compile and submit a report to the Congress containing the information received from the States pursuant to section 722(d)(3) within 45 days of its receipt.

SEC. 725. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this subtitle—

(1) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education; and

(2) the term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

STATUS REPORT - EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNDER THE STEWART B. MCKINNEY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Form Approved
OMB No.: 1810-0536
Expiration Date: 9/90

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

SPECIFICS: Please provide the following information requested pursuant to Section 722(d) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and return to:

Mr. Edward Smith
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW (Room 2030 - MS 6257)
Washington, D.C. 20202

DEFINITIONS: For purposes of this reporting form, the following definitions apply:

"Homeless"- A homeless individual is one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accomodation for human beings (Section 103 (a)(1)(2) of the Act).

The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by an Act of Congress or a State law (Section 103(c)).

"Child" and "Youth"- Persons who, if they were children of residents of the State, would be entitled to a free public education.

Note: The figures in this report reflect the findings of a telephone survey which requested information for the month of Sept., 1988.

I. (a) List numbers of homeless children and youth in your State according to school-level groups.

School Level	Numbers of Children/Youth	
.Preschool	90	Not counted in totals
Elementary (K-6)	90	
Middle/Jr. High (7-9)	23	
High School (10-12)	11	Total 268
Unknown	144	

(b) Indicate the source of the information in item I.(a).

Preliminary telephone survey conducted in October, 1988 to obtain September, 1988 information. Agencies called included: Human Service Centers; Salvation Army offices; Community Action Programs; Abused Adult/Crisis Centers; Homeless Shelter; Family Services offices; Youthworks.

II. (a) List (in rank and order) numbers of children housed according to the locations of homeless children and youth in your State. (NOTE: The total number of children should equal the total number in item I.(a)).

Type of Housing	Numbers of Children/Youth (Schoolage)	
Public operated shelters	--	
Privately operated shelters	126	
Relatives or friends	80	
Other (specify) street	3	Total 268
Safe Home	8	
Hotel	1	
Unknown	50	

b. the source of the information provided in II.(a).

See I (b).

III.(a) List in order of numbers of homeless children, those municipalities having the greatest numbers of homeless children and youth.

Name of Municipality	Numbers of Children/Youth (school age children only)	
Grand Forks	74	
Fargo	47	
Jamestown	30	
Bismarck	30	
Devils Lake	11	Total 268
Dickinson	8	
~~Minot~~	~~8~~	
Williston	3	
other	57	

(b) Indicate the source of the information provided in III.(a).

See I (b).

IV. The sum of (a) and (b) should equal the total number reported in item I.(a).

(a) How many homeless children and youth are presently attending school in your State? 173

(b) How many homeless children and youth are not attending school in your State? 23 Total 268

Unknown 72

(c) Indicate the source of information provided in IV(a) and (b).

See I (b).

V. Indicate the reasons the homeless children and youth are not attending school in your State, and provide the basis for these conclusions.

It should be noted that in virtually every area of the state, shelters and service providers described a cooperative altitude on the part of the school. It appears that schools are cognizant of the need to enroll students--homeless or otherwise--as quickly as possible.

Transiency was mentioned several times as a deterrent to school enrollment. That is, families were passing through to other areas and so would be enrolling their

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

(Use additional sheets, if necessary)

7. Continued
children at their destination.

Family instability and economic concerns were factors in several cases of nonattendance. Parents' fear of being cited for neglect if children are sent to school was also noted as an obstacle in one case. Other deterrents to attendance included safety reasons (fear of child stealing); dislike of a particular school; time needed to resettle into a new school; and older children needed to babysit younger siblings.

It should be noted that there are numerous "throwaway" or "runaway" youth in North Dakota not reported in these findings. Because these youth are on their own and often do not come into contact with shelter or service providers, their numbers are most difficult to ascertain. Nonetheless, the Department of Public Instruction recognizes the seriousness of the needs among these young people and will examine ways to reach them.

List, in order of importance, the special educational needs of the homeless children and youth.

The service and shelter providers with whom I spoke mentioned the need for schools to address both the emotional and physical needs of children. Specifically, recommendations were to offer counseling services, to address the psychological stresses in the lives of homeless children, and to build awareness and sensitivity among education providers. The need for school lunches and breakfasts was stressed, as were the need for school supplies, appropriate clothing, medical care, and, of course, shelter. The instability of a child's homelife--usually characterized by deficits in these physical and emotional needs -- impinges directly upon the child's school performance.

It was also recommended that needs assessments be carried out as quickly as possible to assess the child's skill level. Remedial assistance, tutoring, and, on occasion, special education services are warranted. Several of the service providers noted a shortened attention span and a lack of basic skills among some homeless children. This was seen as being somewhat dependent upon the number of transitions experienced by the child. The sensitivity of the teacher, as well as involvement of the parent in the child's education was seen as beneficial in dealing with these concerns. Outreach designed to draw homeless families into the network of service delivery systems was seen as critical.

(b) List, in order of importance, the difficulties you have encountered in identifying these needs.

1. Difficulty in identifying the "hidden" population of homeless students living with relatives or friends.
2. The problem of balancing avoidance of duplicate counts with completeness of information.
3. Variations in recordkeeping practices of various agencies, making an accurate breakdown of statistics, according to school level, housing types, etc., difficult.
4. The next step after needs are identified--i.e. meeting the challenge to improve the educational circumstances of homeless children and youth.

"To the best of my knowledge, the facts and figures in this document are accurate."

Chief State School Officer | Date

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OFFICE OF EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

Survey of Homeless Children and Youth

Dear School Official:

The tragedy of homelessness is affecting thousands of individuals throughout our nation. A panel of the National Academy of Sciences has found that children are the fastest-growing group among America's homeless. This is a tragic phenomenon that demands our immediate attention.

Homeless children are far more likely than others of their age to suffer from a variety of illnesses and physical disorders. Emotional and developmental difficulties are also prevalent among this group.

The situation of homelessness greatly affects a child's school attendance and performance. In many areas of this country, residency concerns and school record transferral procedures can delay a child's entrance into school. Transportation difficulties and a lack of school supplies and proper clothing can also deter a homeless child or youth from maintaining consistent school attendance.

When homeless children and youth <u>are</u> in school, hunger and fatigue can interfere with learning. It is not surprising that the homeless young person is frequently inattentive, distant, and disruptive.

Runaway youth pose unique educational problems. They bring with them the difficulties experienced by all homeless young people. In addition, they require special efforts to be located, recruited, and served in the educational system. Outreach and interagency cooperation are essential in this effort.

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No Postage Stamp Necessary
POSTAGE HAS BEEN PREPAID BY

Department of Public Instruction
Lynette K. Blumhardt
Education of Homeless Children and Youth
State Capitol - 9th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
DR. WAYNE G. SANSTEAD, SUPERINTENDENT
STATE CAPITOL
BISMARCK ND 58505-0440

Homeless children and youth need help to deal with the movement from school to school and with the presence of family instability and poverty in their lives. Emphasis must be on developing self-esteem, assertion, coping, and communication skills.

The Department of Public Instruction has established, within its Compensatory Education Section, an Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. This office is funded with a grant obtained under Public Law 100-77, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, specifically Title VII, Subtitle B. Under this Act, states are charged with collecting information on the numbers and needs of homeless children/youth, identifying problems that prevent them from receiving an education, and developing plans to overcome such problems.

As Program Planner for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, I am seeking information from you concerning homeless students in your area of responsibility. Your input is absolutely vital in clarifying our knowledge of the numbers and needs of homeless students in North Dakota.

I am requesting that each school provide me with the name of a "contact person" who may have knowledge of and interest in the homeless problem. (This contact person may or may not be the individual completing the survey.) Please use the week of December 5-9, 1988 as a reference point for drawing statistical information for the completion of this survey. Return the survey to me by December 16. You will note that the survey can simply be folded and sealed, with my address visible. Postage has been prepaid.

Please be aware that all principals in your district--both elementary and secondary--are receiving this survey. I ask that each principal provide statistics for only his/her area or scope of responsibility. This ought to help us avoid duplication.

To plan an effective course of action to deal with the concerns of homeless students and the schools who serve them, we need to hear from you. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in this endeavor.

Feel free to call me with questions or concerns at (701) 224-3546.

Sincerely,

Lynette Blumhardt

Lynette Blumhardt
Education of Homeless Children and Youth

DEFINITION:

For our purposes, a homeless individual is defined as one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence, or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a public or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including emergency shelters, welfare hotels, domestic violence facilities, runaway youth facilities, or transitional housing for the mentally ill). A homeless person might also be one who is living in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings--i.e., in a car, on the street, under a bridge, etc. Those persons "doubling up" with relatives or friends are considered homeless as well.

Homeless Children and Youth
Survey Covering December 5-9, 1988

Name of School Building: _____

Name of School District: _____

Scope of Responsibility (Ex: Principal K-6): _____

Contact Person for Homeless Children and Youth:

Name and Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Question 1. Were there students who met the definition of "homeless" living in your school attendance area, during the week of December 5-9, 1988?
_____ Yes _____ No

If NO, please return the survey to the address provided.

If YES, please complete the following questions and return this postage-paid form by DECEMBER 16, 1988.

Question 2. How many homeless children and youth were living in your school attendance area during the week of December 5-9, 1988?

Elementary (K-6) _____
Jr. High (7-9) _____
High School (10-12) _____
TOTAL _____

Question 3. Please list by number, where these homeless children and youth were residing during this particular week.

Homeless Family Shelter _____
Homeless Youth Shelter _____
Abuse/Crisis Shelter _____
Relatives/Friends _____
Outdoors/Vehicle _____
Other (Please specify) _____
Unknown _____
TOTAL _____
(Note: This total should agree with the total in Question 2.)

Question 4. A. During the week of December 5-9, how many of these homeless children and youth were attending this school? _____

B. During the week of December 5-9, how many of these homeless children and youth were NOT attending this school? _____

(The sum of A and B should equal the total reported in Questions 2 and 3.)

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

Question 5. Please mark with an "X" those factors which you see as barriers to the education of homeless children and youth in this school.

_____ Residency Requirements
_____ Lack of Transportation
_____ Special Curriculum Needs
_____ Stress, Hunger, Exhaustion
_____ Difficulty in functioning within the traditional school structure
_____ Tuition payment problems
_____ Lack of School Records
_____ Guardianship Requirements
_____ Family Stresses
_____ Clothing/Hygiene
_____ Chemical Abuse
_____ Having to care for a sibling
_____ Other (Please explain)

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Question 6. Please mark with an "X" those factors which you perceive as special needs and concerns of homeless children and youth in this school.

_____ Compensatory Education
_____ Bilingual Education
_____ Health Care (Physical)
_____ Special Education
_____ Easier record transfer
_____ Counseling Services
_____ Teen Pregnancy Services
_____ School Breakfast and Lunches
_____ Tutoring
_____ Other (Please explain)

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Question 7. What kind of program or service do you, as a school administrator, teacher, or other school associated person, wish to see the state or federal government provide to better serve homeless children and youth?

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your responses are greatly appreciated.

Return survey on or before December 16, 1988 to:

Lynette Blumhardt
Department of Public Instruction
Education of Homeless Children and Youth
State Capitol - 9th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

Please fold the survey so that the Department address is visible, seal and mail.

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OFFICE OF EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

Survey of Homeless Children and Youth

Dear Service Provider:

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Homeless children are far more likely than others of their age to suffer from a variety of illnesses and physical disorders. Emotional and developmental difficulties are also prevalent among this group.

The situation of homelessness greatly affects a child's school attendance and performance. In many areas of this country, residency concerns and school record transferral procedures can delay a child's entrance into school. Transportation difficulties and a lack of school supplies and proper clothing can also deter a homeless child or youth from maintaining consistent school attendance.

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As Program Planner for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, I am seeking information from you concerning homeless children and youth served by your agency. Your input is absolutely vital in clarifying our knowledge of the numbers and needs of homeless students in North Dakota.

I am requesting that each agency provide me with the name of a "contact person" who may have knowledge of and interest in the homeless problem. (This contact person may or may not be the individual completing the survey.) Please use the week of December 5-9, 1988 as a reference point for drawing statistical information for the completion of this survey. Return the survey to me by December 16. You will note that the survey can simply be folded and sealed, with my address visible. Postage has been prepaid.

To plan an effective course of action to deal with the concerns of homeless children and youth, and the education systems and service agencies who serve them, we need to hear from you. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in this endeavor. Your responses are greatly appreciated.

Feel free to call me with questions or concerns at (701) 224-3546.

Sincerely,

Lynette Blumhardt

Lynette Blumhardt
Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Department of Public Instruction
State Capitol - 9th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

DEFINITION:

For our purposes, a homeless individual is defined as one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence, or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a public or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including emergency shelters, welfare hotels, domestic violence facilities, runaway youth facilities, or transitional housing for the mentally ill). A homeless person might also be one who is living in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings--i.e., in a car, on the street, under a bridge, etc. Those persons "doubling up" with relatives or friends are considered homeless as well.

Homeless Children and Youth
Survey Covering December 5-9, 1988

Name of Agency: _____

Contact Person for Homeless Children and Youth:

Name and Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Question 1. Were there students who met the definition of "homeless" served by agency personnel, during the week of December 5-9, 1988?

_____ Yes _____ No

If NO, please return the survey to the address provided.

If YES, please complete the following questions and return this postage-paid form by DECEMBER 16, 1988.

Question 2. How many homeless children and youth were served by your agency during the week of December 5-9, 1988?

Elementary (K-6)	_____
Jr. High (7-9)	_____
High School (10-12)	_____
TOTAL	_____

Question 3. Please list by number, where these homeless children and youth were residing during this particular week.

Homeless Family Shelter	_____
Homeless Youth Shelter	_____
Abuse/Crisis Shelter	_____
Relatives/Friends	_____
Outdoors/Vehicle	_____
Other (Please specify)	_____
Unknown	_____
TOTAL	_____

(Note: This total should agree with the total in Question 2.)

Question 4. A. During the week of December 5-9, how many of these homeless children and youth served by your agency were attending school? _____

B. During the week of December 5-9, how many of these homeless children and youth served by your agency were NOT attending school? _____

(The sum of A and B should equal the total reported in Questions 2 and 3.)

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

Question 5. Please mark with an "X" those factors which you see as barriers to the education of homeless children and youth in your service area.

_____ Residency Requirements
_____ Lack of Transportation
_____ Special Curriculum Needs
_____ Stress, Hunger, Exhaustion
_____ Difficulty in functioning within the traditional school structure
_____ Tuition payment problems
_____ Lack of School Records
_____ Guardianship Requirements
_____ Family Stresses
_____ Clothing/Hygiene
_____ Chemical Abuse
_____ Having to care for a sibling
_____ Other (Please explain)

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Question 6. Please mark with an "X" those factors which you perceive as special needs and concerns of homeless children and youth in your service area.

_____ Compensatory Education
_____ Bilingual Education
_____ Health Care (Physical)
_____ Special Education
_____ Easier record transfer
_____ Counseling Services
_____ Teen Pregnancy Services
_____ School Breakfast and Lunches
_____ Tutoring
_____ Other (Please explain)

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Question 7. Indicate the <u>number</u> of homeless school age children and youth referred to each listed agency during the week of December 5-9.

_____ County Social Services
_____ Community Action Program
_____ Emergency Shelter
_____ Domestic Violence Facility
_____ Food Pantry
_____ Salvation Army
_____ Regional Human Service Center
_____ Special Youth Agency (Name/Type) _____
_____ Other _____

Question 8. What kind of program or service do you, as a service provider wish to see the state or federal government provide to better serve homeless children and youth?

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Please return survey no later than December 16, 1988. Please fold survey so that the Department address is visible, seal and mail.

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION 12/30/88

APPENDIX E - Final Status Report

STATUS REPORT - EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNDER THE STEWART B. MCKINNEY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Form Approved
OMB No.: 1810-0536
Expiration Date: 9/90

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

SPECIFICS: Please provide the following information requested pursuant to Section 722(d) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and return to:

Mr. Edward Smith
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW (Room 2030 - MS 6257)
Washington, D.C. 20202

DEFINITIONS: For purposes of this reporting form, the following definitions apply:

"Homeless"- A homeless individual is one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accomodation for human beings (Section 103 (a)(1)(2) of the Act).

The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by an Act of Congress or a State law (Section 103(c)).

"Child" and "Youth"- Persons who, if they were children of residents of the State, would be entitled to a free public education.

I. (a) List numbers of homeless children and youth in your State according to school-level groups.

School Level	Numbers of Children/Youth		
	Reported by Schools	Reported by Service Agencies	SUBTOTAL
Elementary (K-6)	22	52	74
Middle/Jr. High (7-9)	52	14	66
High School (10-12)	53	10	63
SUBTOTAL	127	76	203 GRAND TOTAL

(b) Indicate the source of the information in item I.(a).

A survey was mailed to all school principals and numerous service agencies in the state in late November, 1988. Information and statistics were to be drawn from the week of December 5-9. Types of service agencies surveyed included: Community Action Programs, Human Service Centers, County Social Services, Domestic Violence Crisis Centers, Family Service Agencies, Red Cross Agencies, Salvation Army Offices, Special Youth Agencies, and Homeless Shelters. 740 surveys were sent to school principals; approximately 300 of these were returned (40%). There were 153 surveys mailed to service agencies, with responses from approximately 70 agencies (46%). There was some phone follow-up done to obtain information after the survey return deadline had passed.

II. (a) List (in rank and order) numbers of children housed according to the locations of homeless children and youth in your State. (NOTE: The total number of children should equal the total number in item I.(a)).

Type of Housing	Numbers of Children/Youth		
	Reported by Schools	Reported by Service Agencies	SUBTOTAL
Public operated shelters	-0-	-0-	-0-
Privately operated shelters	15	26	41
Relatives or friends	76	24	100
Other (specify) Unknown	13	22	35
Substandard, inadequate, unstable housing	23	-0-	23
Safe Homes	-0-	4	4
SUBTOTAL	127	76	203 GRAND TOTAL

ED Form A10-1SP

(b) Indicate the source of the information provided in II.(a).

See I (b).

III.(a) List in order of numbers of homeless children, those municipalities having the greatest numbers of homeless children and youth.

Name of Municipality	Numbers of Children/Youth (School-age)
Fargo	69
Bismarck-Mandan	33
Grand Forks	23
Fort Yates	20
Devils Lake	18
Jamestown	13
Williston	3
Minot	2
Other Sites	22
TOTAL	203 Homeless children and youth noted during the week of Dec. 5-9, 1988.

(b) Indicate the source of the information provided in III.(a).

See I (b). It should be noted that many survey respondents replied that there were no homeless children/youth in their service area. This may indeed be the case in some circumstances. In others, it is likely that there are homeless youth within the school or service area, but their situation is not recognized. This speaks to the often "hidden" aspect of homelessness. In addition, I have noted that the response rate was 40% for schools and 46% for service agencies. While this is a significant return rate, it is a certainty that many other homeless children and youth were knowingly served by schools and other service agencies; their presence was simply not reported.

In sum, I think it is critical to recognize that the figures above represent but a fraction of the homeless children and youth present in North Dakota.

IV. The sum of (a) and (b) should equal the total number reported in item I.(a).

(a) How many homeless children and youth are presently attending school in your State? 173

(b) How many homeless children and youth are not attending school in your State? 12
Unknown 18

(c) Indicate the source of information provided in IV(a) and (b). 203 - TOTAL

See I (b). Please also note comments under III (b).

V. Indicate the reasons the homeless children and youth are not attending school in your State, and provide the basis for these conclusions.

As is shown in the statistics, the great majority of homeless children and youth are in school. Attendance may, in some situations, be sporadic. However, most homeless children and youth in the state are enrolled in school.

Transiency was mentioned several times as a deterrent to school enrollment. Families enroute to other areas of the state or country would likely enroll their children at their destination.

Other factors were viewed as barriers to school enrollment, regular attendance, participation, and school achievement. Family stresses (sometimes including physical and/or sexual abuse), hunger, and exhaustion were noted as significant problems. Chemical abuse and difficulty in functioning within the traditional school structure were also seen as quite common deterrents to school attendance and achievement. Other concerns related to clothing/hygiene, a lack of transportation, guardianship issues, and having to care for a sibling. Residency requirements, tuition payment problems, a lack of school records, and special curriculum needs were noted a few times.

Economic difficulties underlie most, if not all, of the concerns mentioned above.

(Use additional sheets, if necessary)

(a) List, in order of importance, the special educational needs of the homeless children and youth.

Physical, emotional, and academic needs were mentioned as needing to be addressed. Specifically, recommendations were made to provide for counseling services, tutorial assistance, and school breakfasts and lunches. Health care, compensatory and special education, and pregnancy services were noted several times as unique education — related needs of homeless children and youth. The need for easier record transfer was indicated twice among respondents.

Other comments provided by respondents spoke to the need to look beyond the school environment to the child's home life. Some noted the need for supportive residential facilities for students who are victims of particularly unstable or abusive homes. The difficulty in identifying children and youth as homeless was also discussed.

Again, economic difficulties are at the root of many of these needs.

(b) List, in order of importance, the difficulties you have encountered in identifying these needs.

1. Difficulty of the schools and service agencies surveyed in identifying the hidden population of homeless children and youth.

2. The number of homeless children and youth identified by schools and service agencies but not reported to this office (i.e. surveys not returned).

3. Variations in recordkeeping practices of various agencies, making an accurate breakdown of statistics difficult.

4. The problem of balancing avoidance of duplicate counts with completeness of information. I inquired of each of the service agencies how many referrals were made to other agencies. My findings were:

26	referrals to Social Services
24	referrals to Food Pantries
13	referrals to Emergency Shelters
9	referrals to Community Action Programs
8	referrals to Human Services
6	referrals to Domestic Violence Facilities
5	referrals to Special Youth Agencies
4	referrals to Salvation Army
5	referrals to Other
100	Total

I would be most hesitant to count these referrals as duplications, however. Several contingencies arise. Referrals made to other agencies may not have "arrived" or been counted during the week of December 5-9, if at all. Furthermore, referred agencies may or may not have returned their surveys to this office.

Foremost is the fact that the numbers of homeless children and youth not sought out, identified or reported far outweigh any duplications that might have occurred.

5. The critical step occurs after needs are identified--i.e. meeting the challenge to improve the educational circumstances (including the academic, physical and emotional components) of homeless children and youth.

"To the best of my knowledge, the facts and figures in this document are accurate."

Chief State School Officer — Date